

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 260006Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0293
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01106

EXDIS

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: MARR, PEPR, LE, IS, UNSC
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON

REFS: (A) STATE 077672, (B) STATE 077670

1. LEONARD REVIEWED TALKING POINTS IN REFTELS WITH
UN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL GUYER AT NOON ON MARCH 25.
GUYER SAID UN CONCURRED THAT HIGH PRIORITY MUST BE
GIVEN TO STRENGTHENING LEBANESE AUTHORITY ACROSS THE
BOARD. TO THIS END SIILASVUO VISITED
BOUTROS AND KHOURY ENROUTE TO DAMASCUS (PARAS 6 & 7
BELOW). AS TO LEVEL OF UN CONTACT WITH PLO, GUYER NOTED
THAT GENERAL UN GUIDELINE IN LEBANON NOW IS FOR ILMAC
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CHAIRMAN TO CONVEY MESSAGE TO MIDDLE-LEVEL PLO REPRESENTA-
TIVES OR FOR MORE IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS TO TAKE PLACE
AT ERSKINE/ARAFAT LEVEL. SIILASVUO WOULD NOT NORMALLY
BE EXPECTED TO MEET WITH ARAFAT. ERSKINE WILL NEXT
BE MEETING WITH ARAFAT ON MARCH 27 WHEN ERSKINE RETURNS
TO BEIRUT TO GREET NORWEGIAN UNITS.

2. GUYER TOOK LEONARD'S POINT THAT WHILE PRECISE AREA OF DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL TROOPS IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT ISSUE, BEST COURSE IS NOT TO PRECIPITATE IRON-CLAD DECISIONS PREMATURELY. BUT GUYER NOTED THAT QUESTION OF DEPLOYMENT AT TYRE IS VERY MUCH AT ISSUE. GUYER DESCRIBED MEETING BETWEEN WALDHEIM AND PERM REPS OF SYRIA, LEBANON, KUWAIT, UAE (AS MARCH CHAIRMAN OF ARAB GROUP) AND PLO OBSERVER MARCH 24. AMBASSADORS INDICATED TO WALDHEIM THAT UNIFIL CONTINGENTS SHOULD BE DEPLOYED ONLY IN REGIONS THAT HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY IDF. ACCORDING TO GUYER LEBANESE PERM REP TUENI CONCURRED "EXPLICITLY." FURTHER ARAB AMBASSADORS SUGGESTED TO WALDHEIM THAT UN SPOKESMAN MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THAT EFFECT AT MARCH 25 BRIEFING. AMBASSADORS ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT IDF SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO POSE CONDITIONS FOR ISRAELI TROOP WITHDRAWAL. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING, SYRIAN AMB ALLAF UNDERSCORED TO WALDHEIM THAT UNIFIL SHOULD DEFINITELY NOT BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OR PORT OF TYRE. ALLAF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS COULD BE POSITIONED IN TYRE BUT ACTUAL UNIFIL UNITS MUST BE KEPT OUT OF CITY.

3. WALDHEIM RESPONDED IN MEETING AND TO ALLAF THAT QUESTION OF DEPLOYMENT WOULD BE DECIDED IN CONSULTATION WITH SIILASVUO, AND WALDHEIM WOULD BE DISCUSSING PLANS WITH HIM. GUYER CONFIRMED THAT UN CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL BE GUIDED ON DEPLOYMENT PREDOMINANTLY BY ATTITUDE OF LEBANON. LEBANON AS HOST COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO MAKE DECISION ON UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN TYRE. MEANWHILE UN DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT AS REQUESTED BY ARAB AMBASSADORS.

4. GUYER THAN PROVIDED US WITH HIGHLIGHTS OF LATEST CABLE REPORTING CONVERSATION BETWEEN SIILASVUO AND ISRAELI COS GENERAL GUR. ISRAELIS REQUESTED THAT UNIFIL NOT BE STATIONED IN MARJUYUN NOR ATTEMPT TO DISARM CHRISTIAN MILITIA. GUR ASKED THAT UNIFIL BE POSITIONED IN TYRE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND AT APPROPRIATE STAGE BE DEPLOYED AT NABATIYAH AND BEAUFORT CASTLE. GUYER AGREED GUR WAS DEMANDING THE MAXIMUM OF UNIFIL. HE IS PERSONALLY NOT RPT NOT DISPOSED TO HAVE UNIFIL NORTH OF THE LITANI.

5. LEONARD IN CONCLUDING CONVERSATION UNDERSCORED ESSENTIAL ROLE OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY AND IMPORTANCE OF UN'S EFFORTS BEING SEEN AS DESIGNED TO ASSIST LEBANESE ON ALL LEVELS TO TAKE ON AS MUCH OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AS POSSIBLE. GUYER COMPLETELY CONCURRED.

6. SUBSEQUENT TO ABOVE UN SECRETARIAT CONVEYED TO US ESSENCE OF SIILASVUO'S CONVERSATION WITH BOUTROS AND KHOURY ON MARCH 25. BOUTROS AND KHOURY TOLD SIILASVUO UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATION SHOULD BE ALL OF SOUTH LEBANON, INCLUDING TYRE, AND IN FACT EXTENDING TO NABATIYAH AND BEAUFORT CASTLE. BOUTROS ADMITTED THAT NABATIYAH AND BEAUFORT MIGHT BE BEYOND THE TERMS OF REFERENCE BUT

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
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UNIFIL'S DEPLOYMENT THERE WOULD ENHANCE THE PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY AND PROMPT RETURN TO NORMAL. BOUTROS PROPOSED THAT AT LEAST UN OBSERVATION POSTS BE SET UP AT NABATIYAH AND BEAUFORT. KHOURY POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH CONTINGENT WOULD BE BEST POSITIONED IN THE BARRACKS ON OUTSKIRTS OF TYRE AT THIS TIME, WITH A MORE COMPLETE DEPLOYMENT TAKING PLACE LATER, AFTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARMED ELEMENTS STATIONED IN THE AREA. SIILASVUO PASSED ON TO LEBANESE LATEST INFORMATION ON IDF "THINNING" ACTIONS. SIILASVUO ASKED ABOUT PREPAREDNESS OF LEBANESE GENDARMERIE TO ASSIST UNIFIL. KHOURY SAID ONE

BRIGADE OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IS READY FOR
DEPLOYMENT IN SOUTH LEBANON AND PLANS WOULD BE WORKED
OUT IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR ITS MOVEMENT.
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7. BOUTROS ALSO INDICATED TO SIILASVUO THAT A LEBANESE
ARMY LIAISON TEAM WOULD SOON BE READY TO MEET AGAIN
WITH IDF LIAISON OFFICERS IN NAQOURA TO DISCUSS
REFUGEE RETURN. BOUTROS CONCLUDED THAT LEBANON DID NOT
SUPPORT MOVING ADF DOWN TO LITANI RIVER BUT GOL WOULD
WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE DESIRES OF SYRIA.
LEONARD

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